

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07117 161408Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 EUR-25 NIC-01

ACDA-19 AID-20 /096 W

----- 117622

R 161324Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6240

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 7117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL LPF PERSONNEL ARRIVE IN VIENTIANE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: VIENTIANE 7073

1. TWO SOVIET AN-12 AIRCRAFT EACH MADE TWO FLIGHTS INTO VIENTIANE OCTOBER 16, CARRYING AN ESTIMATED 140 UNIFORMED LPF PASSENGERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE ARMED WITH AK-47S OR B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS. PERSONNEL EACH CARRIED BACKPACK AND THEIR PERSONAL GEAR SEEMED TO BE NEW. AIRCRAFT ALSO BROUGHT IN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CARGO--INCLUDING A LARGE QUANTITY OF DUFFLE BAGS, SOME SACKS OF RICE, CRATES, AND ENOUGH FURNITURE TO FILL A TWO-AND-ONE-HALF-TON TRUCK. TWO SMALL "SCOUT" VEHICLES ALSO ARRIVED ABOARD AIRCRAFT.

2. TWO AN-12 FLIGHTS EXPECTED IN VIENTIANE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 15 DID NOT ARRIVE, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER. PRC'S IL-14 AIRCRAFT HAS NOT YET REAPPEARED IN LUANG PRABANG WITH ANY LPF PERSONNEL.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 07117 161408Z

EM ACCORDING TO XAT LAO, TIAO SOUK VONGSACK, DEPUTY CHIEF OF LPF DELEGATION, SAID IN INTERVIEW THAT THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF 145 LPF PERSONNEL INCLUDED TECHNICIANS, SECURITY AND ORDNANCE PEOPLE WHO WILL SERVE IN THE JCIA AND IN THE JOINT POLICE FORCE IN VIENTIANE. REFERRING TO THE SACKS OF RICE WHICH HAD ARRIVED ON THE INITIAL AIRPLANE, SOUK SAID THAT LPF BROUGHT RICE BECAUSE VIENTIANE WAS FACED WITH A SHORTAGE. IN CONVERSATION WITH ARMA TODAY, SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE STATED THAT MOST OF THE CARGO WHICH HAD ARRIVED SO FAR WAS FURNITURE, BUT SOME WAS AMMUNITION. SOVIET ALSO STATED THAT LPF DID NOT APPEAR READY TO MOVE PERSONNEL TO VIENTIANE QUITE AS FAST AS HE HAD INITIALLY THOUGHT THEY WOULD. HE ADDED THAT SOVIET ROLE IN MOVEMENT WAS CONFINED SOLELY TO PROVIDING SAFE AIR TRANSPORT FOR MEN AND CARGO, WITHOUT REGARD AS TO NATURE OF CARGO. WHITEHOUSE

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